



Pete Olson

U.S. House of Representatives
- Texas -

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FACT SHEET FOR STUDENTS DESIRING A CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATION FOR MILITARY ACADEMIES

Entrance Requirements

A candidate must be a resident of the 22nd Congressional District! A candidate who is temporarily residing outside the 22nd District because their parents are involved in government or military service must prove legal residence within the 22nd District and show that the move outside the District is temporary. The legal residence of the father normally determines residency. If the parents are divorced, the residence of the parent with whom the applicant lives determines their legal residency.

The candidate for an academy nomination must be a citizen of the United States and be between the ages of 17 and 22. Candidates must have reached their 17th birthday, but NOT have passed their 23rd birthday on or before July 1 of the year they would enter the academy. The Merchant Marine Academy is an exception in that you must not have attained 25 years of age as of July 1 of the year of entry. The candidate **must** be unmarried, not pregnant, nor have a legal requirement to provide support to a dependent. Academy applicants must be physically fit, have excellent vision as well as physical dexterity and agility as demonstrated on the Physical Aptitude Examination administered by the academies.

A young man or woman with these qualifications must apply to me no later than **OCTOBER 30th** of the year **BEFORE** he or she desires to enter one of the academies (this is usually the senior year of high school). Screening and processing of the candidates will be completed in time to enable me to meet the deadline for submitting my congressional nominations to the academies. Should a candidate not qualify for a nomination, notification will be given early enough so they may make other educational plans.

Screening Process

To assist in evaluating and selecting nominees, I require:

- a completed formal application;
- an **official** (not photocopy) transcript of high school work, and college if applicable;
- **official** (not photocopies) of SAT or ACT scores (preferably SAT);
- a recent photograph no larger than 3" x 5" (professional quality NOT required);
- three letters of reference from persons who can provide assessments of an applicant's character, motivation, personality traits, and over-all suitability for a military academy (two of the letters should be from persons in the 22nd district);
- a signed drug statement and a writing sample no greater than five (5) pages on the topic of your choice (this should be a research paper or report that you prepared for a high school or college class).

The deadline for receiving these items in my office is **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30TH**. At that time, an applicant may qualify for an interview with my Service Academy Advisory Board.

Please submit a current application form dated. Please discard any previous applications or any application received from a different Congressional office.

Note: I request only three letters of recommendation. Please do not send more than three. The committee will only use the first three letters received in the office.

The academies do not give an academic examination. Instead, they use the results of the College Entrance Examination Board (SAT) or the American College Testing Program (ACT). Applicants must make their own arrangements to take these tests and should do so **AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE**. * When determining who will receive your SAT and ACT score reports, please be sure to include code **6967** for SAT tests and code **7693** for ACT tests so that your test scores will be sent directly to our office. Tests may be retaken, and the best combination of scores will be used by the academies.

Selection of Candidates

The 22nd District Service Academy Advisory Board will rank all candidates from the district. The most highly rated applicants will be nominated to the Academy of their choice. My part in the selection process is screening applicants and submitting lists of nominees to the academies. From these lists the academies make the actual appointments.

Vacancies

Normally, our congressional district has one place to fill in each class entering each of the three major service academies. The vacancy is created by the graduation of a cadet from our district each year. However, when a cadet leaves an academy for any reason before graduation, a vacancy is created for the next year and changes the cycle.

Many young people I will nominate rank sufficiently high so that the academies select them for entrance through quotas other than “congressional.” These include “athletic”, “additional,” “Secretary of the Army,” “qualified alternate,” etc. Thus, more candidates now have the opportunity to enter an academy than in past years.

Each academy requires the submission of a preliminary application to initiate the admissions process. If you have not already contacted the Academy of your choice, please do so now by using their website. This will let the Academy know you seek admission, and they will provide you general information, a pre-candidate questionnaire plus open a pre-admission file on you. Their websites are:

U.S. Air Force Academy	http://academyadmissions.com
U.S. Military Academy (West Point)	http://admissions.usma.edu
U.S. Naval Academy	http://www.usna.edu/admissions
U.S. Merchant Marine Academy	http://www.usmma.edu/admissions/default.htm

Merchant Marine Academy

A different nomination procedure is followed for the Merchant Marine Academy. Each Texas Member of Congress can nominate ten candidates, who then compete with all others nominated for the 13 spots Texas is allocated.

Coast Guard Academy

There are no congressional nominations or geographic quotas for the Coast Guard Academy. These appointments are made by the Commandant of the Coast Guard by means of a national competitive examination. Applications should be received by the Director of Admission, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, New London, Connecticut, 06320, before December 1 of the year prior to entrance at the academy. Their website is www.cga.edu.

In Summary

Selection of candidates by the academies is based on academic records, class standing, SAT or ACT scores, results of the medical examination and physical aptitude tests, leadership potential and personal interviews.

There are always numerous applications for each vacancy, and competition is heavy. However, ANY person who meets the requirements of the academies has a chance to be nominated.

My office will provide prospective candidates an application packet upon request. **No one will receive an interview or qualify for nomination unless a completed application and all accompanying information is postmarked to my office by OCTOBER 30th.**

For further information contact my office at 281-486-1095 or write:

Congressman Pete Olson
Attn: Service Academy Nominations
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